

A NEW RECORD FOR THE MASTODON *Mastodon americanus*
KERR, FROM NOVA SCOTIA

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The existing information concerning mastodon remains in Nova Scotia was brought together by the late Mr. Harry Piers in 1912, (2). Briefly, the only remains known at that time were a femur of one animal and a molar tooth, probably a second molar, of another. Both these specimens came from the island of Cape Breton, and although he heard tales of large bones lying at considerable distances from the sea in other parts of the province, Mr. Piers was unable to obtain actual mastodon specimens from the mainland of Nova Scotia.

During the late fall of 1948, Mr. Bernie MacDonald of Halifax, while working in the Naval Magazine at Burnside, Halifax County, found a large tooth in some glacial till being used to construct roads and embankments inside the Magazine area.

This tooth was examined by the author within a few days of its discovery, and identified, with the help of Osborn's monograph on the Proboscidea, (1), as a third lower molar of the right side of *Mastodon americanus* Kerr. The tooth was very kindly re-examined and its identity verified by Dr. L. S. Russell of the Royal Ontario Museum of Palaeontology.

A careful search of the magazine area by a number of persons, including the author, disclosed only a small piece which had been broken off the original tooth.

It was not possible to discover from what gravel pit the tooth had originally come, since the till in which it was found had been obtained from a number of pits around Nine-mile River near Elmsdale, Hants County, Nova Scotia. Superficial

examination of several of these pits failed to disclose any more mastodon remains.

This tooth, which is believed to be the first definite trace of the American Mastodon from the Nova Scotian mainland, is now housed in the Nova Scotia Museum of Science at Halifax, together with the molar and femur from Cape Breton Island.

LITERATURE CITED

- (1: Osborn, Henry Fairfield. Proboscidea. American Museum Press, 1936-42.
- (2: Piers, Harry. Mastodon Remains in Nova Scotia. Proceedings and Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science. Vol. XIII. 1910-14. pp. 163-174.